

EXTENSION EDUCATION EVENTS

Extension Education Events (EEE) are a series of free and exciting classes that take environmental stewardship principles into the community. The effort began in April of 2004 with a program called Extension Education Nights (EEN). This monthly educational series took place in the evenings at the WSU King County Extension office. In 2005, faculty and staff decided to increase accessibility by “taking the show on the road,” much like the old Extension Trains bringing the university to the people, with the belief that taking these monthly events directly into the communities of King County helps educate the community and assists Extension



A workshop attendee investigates a find during a recent class on beneficial insects.

Photo: T. Zimmerman

sion in meeting their goals. The change has been positive and has fostered much collaboration with city offices and non-profit organizations in King County. The educational events, focusing on our local environment, have proven to be popular with the public. King County residents are getting a chance to connect with Extension and to learn what can be done to protect our water, land, forest, farms, and local food systems. Ideas for educational topics are solicited as part of each workshop’s evaluation. The new ideas are added to a list which faculty and staff evaluate for topic relevance and alignment with program goals.

Objectives/Goals

- Provide outreach to communities in King County
- Promote environmental stewardship
- Engage new people in Extension programs
- Offer continuing education credit for WSU volunteers

2005 Workshops

January: Enumclaw
Hay! It's What's For Dinner!

February: Renton
Soil Amendments for Gardens and Landscapes

March: Bellevue
Reasons and Resources for Eating Locally (CSA's)

April: Seattle
An Introduction to Vegetable Gardening

May: Issaquah
Household Hens: Raising Chickens in Your Backyard

June: Seattle
Meet the Beach: Exploring Puget Sound at Low Tide

July: Seattle
Beneficial Insects in Your Backyard

August: Burien
Pest Proofing Your Home and Yard

September: Auburn
Yard Waste and Food Waste Composting

October: Seatac
Inviting Wildlife into Your Backyard

November: Redmond
Building Skills for working with Diverse Audiences

December: Des Moines
Puget Sound Geology

2005 Collaborations

- Seattle Tilth Association
- Center for Urban Horticulture
- Issaquah Grange Supply
- Spirit Ridge Elementary School
- Seattle Aquarium Beach Naturalists
- Pike Place Market Basket CSA
- Full Circle Farm
- ReachOut!
- Dog Mountain Farm
- Jubilee Farm



Class participants learning about our environment on a Saturday morning.

Photo: T. Zimmerman

Taking extension education out into the community.



Participants in the Beneficial Insects workshop sweeping for insects at the Center for Urban Horticulture.

Photo: T. Murray

Upcoming topics for 2006

January: Maple Valley

Pasture Cross-Fencing

February: Bellevue

Saving for a Rainy Day: Rain Barrels

March: Sammamish

Just Say No to Weed & Feed: Non-Chemical Lawn Care

April: Covington

Wicked Weeds and Vermin Villains

May: Covington

To Use or Not to Use--Native Plants: Are They Right for You?

June: Covington

Building Dream Soil: Composting in Your Backyard

Marketing & Promotion

TV – NW Cable News

Radio –KUOW

Community list serves

Email distribution

Newspapers

Newsletters

2005 Successes

Extension Education Events drew more than 200 program participants from 23 King County cities in 2005. The program has also been popular with residents from Pierce and Snohomish Counties.



A workshop participant investigates aquatic life at the Seattle Aquarium during May's Meet the Beach event.

Photo: T. Zimmerman

Testimonials

This was a very good class. Handouts & activities outside were helpful.

Thanks! The information was great & presented in an interesting way.

Thank you very much for hosting this free class!!

Thanks so much for this class. It's nice to have programs like this here in my neighborhood!

I learned alot of things that I can take home and apply in my backyard today. Thanks so much!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "D Batura".

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